

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

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ANSWER PLEASE! Questions For Herr Brandt

On April 20th Herr Willi Brandt, Lord Mayor of West Berlin, is scheduled to visit Britain. Herr Brandt is a member of the Social Democratic Party, and the main aim of his visit is to drum up support, particularly in the British Labour Party, for a retention of the present occupation regime in West Berlin.

Herr Brandt never tires of proclaiming that West Berlin is a "bastion of western freedom" allegedly threatened by "Communist aggression". On April 2nd, in an American TV interview, he said: "To live under Communism would be worse than an atomic war."

In fact, as he knows very well, there has been no whisper of a threat of "Communist aggression":

THE WEST GERMAN JUNGLE

"There is also cooking up in Bonn now a frothy ferment of intrigue and counter intrigue.

"A bitter underground war, for instance, is being fought out between the two youngest aspirants for the succession to Adenauer.

"These are: (1) the aggressive 43-year-old Franz Josef Strauss, whose popularity in the country is waning while his network of personal henchmen in the Government administration spreads further and further; and (2) the ex-Nazi Minister of the Interior, 48-year-old Dr Gerhard Schroeder.

"Not only do they use the secret services they control to watch each other. They feed West Germany's newspapers and magazines with damaging material about their rival's departments."

Sefton Delmer in "Daily Express",
London, March 25th

the recent proposals by the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic for the solution of the Berlin problem have all emphasised that all foreign troops should be withdrawn from West Berlin; that West Berliners should be free to choose the social system under which they wish to live, and that this right should be guaranteed by a specific international pact, underwritten if necessary by the United Nations.

Here are some questions which could well be put to Mr Brandt during his forthcoming visit to Britain:

1. What threats of "communist aggression" have been uttered against West Berlin? Can you name the source and the date of such threats?

We challenge Herr Brandt to give an honest answer to this question!

2. Is it true that 28,000 city officials, who were removed from their positions after the war because of their Nazi affiliations, are working again in all branches of the West Berlin administration?

We challenge Herr Brandt to give an honest answer to this question!

3. Is it true that more than half the judges and public prosecutors working today in West Berlin worked in similar posts under Hitler, and that many of them passed death sentences on anti-fascists? Is it true that one-third of the West Berlin police were members of the Nazi Party or the SS?

We challenge Herr Brandt to give an honest answer to this question!

4. Is it true that several dozen espionage and sabotage organi-

sations, whose activity is aimed against the German Democratic Republic, carry on business openly in West Berlin? Is it true that they receive special facilities from the West Berlin authorities, and that the West Berlin police give these agents special permits to carry revolvers?

We challenge Herr Brandt to give an honest answer to this question!

5. Is it true that you would prefer to provoke world-wide atomic war, rather than negotiate a settlement which would guarantee West Berlin the status of a demilitarised Free City?

We challenge Herr Brandt to give an honest answer to this question!

75% OF NEW YORKERS SAY "BERLIN? WHERE'S THAT?"

A high proportion of Americans do not know where Berlin is, or what the fuss is about, but President Eisenhower's policy has "overwhelming popular support", the "New York Times" reported on March 23rd.

Reporting on a survey in the New York area, the "New York Times" stated: "Many persons lacked an understanding of the issues involved. Of the fifty to sixty persons interviewed in the area, about 75 percent did not know Berlin's location or precisely the arrangements concerning its status."

Summing up similar surveys across the width of the USA, the paper reported: "About 39 percent of those interviewed did not know that Berlin was an enclave in Communist East Germany about 100 miles from the West German border."

Social Democrats Table Germany Plan

West Germany's Social Democrats, the main opposition party, have tabled a plan for European security and German reunification in phases. The plan was published on March 19th.

The plan, which proposed disengagement in central Europe and negotiations between the two German states on a basis of parity, received a guarded welcome in the German Democratic Republic.

Here are the main points of the Social Democratic proposals:

1. Both German states, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary should constitute a "zone of relaxation", from which all foreign troops and all nuclear weapons should be removed in a phased operation under full ground and air control.

2. All interested states, including the USSR and USA, should join in a collective security agreement guaranteeing the integrity of the states concerned; when this collective security agreement comes into effect then the states in the "relaxation zone" should leave NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

3. The status of Berlin should remain unaltered until the solution of the German problem.

4. Steps towards a political reunification of Germany should begin with the establishment of an "All-German Conference" with an equal number of delegates from both German states. This body should settle inner-German questions, subject to the approval of the parliaments of the two German states.

5. All-German economic bodies, also on a basis of parity, should help to plan and finance reunification of the economies of the two German states.

6. Second step in the political reunification should consist of the election of an All-German Parliamentary Council, half elected in West Germany and half elected in the German Democratic Republic. This Council would be empowered to over-rule the parliaments of the two German states by a two-thirds majority.

7. Third step should be the election of a National Assembly which would prepare an All-German Constitution and hold elections to an All-German Parliament which would establish the Government of united Germany.

Official circles in the German Democratic Republic greeted the Social Democratic Party's plan with some reserve, pointing out that it did not deal with the key problem of eliminating the aggressive imperialist and militarist forces in West Germany.

On the whole, however, the new plan was welcomed as a sign of realism which opened up new chances of solving the German problem.

"Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party in the German Democratic Republic, commented on April 2nd:

"The plan of the Social Democratic Party shows a recognition of the fact that a continuation of the Adenauer policy will lead to a political and economic 'Stalingrad'. In other respects too this plan is realistic: it recognises the fact that arms limitation is necessary; it rejects the nuclear armament of the West German army; it speaks of the necessity of leaving NATO, of reducing troop strengths, of concluding a peace treaty.

"The Social Democratic plan demands negotiations with the German Democratic Republic, and the establishment on a basis of parity of organs of the two German states. All these demands are the demands of the West German workers — and not just of the workers.

"All these demands correspond with proposals made by the German Democratic Republic, by the Socialist Unity Party, and with proposals made in the draft peace treaty tabled by the Soviet Government.

"The Social Democratic plan does contain some illogicalities, but it is realistic, and corresponds in many points with the interests of the working people."

MAY MEET WILL MEET

The Big Four powers have all indicated their readiness to attend a Foreign Minister's Conference in Geneva on May 11th to discuss questions relating to Germany, including a peace treaty with Germany and the question of Berlin. Both German states are scheduled to be represented at the meeting.

Final agreement to attend this meeting was indicated by the western powers in notes addressed to the Soviet Union on March 26th, and con-

firmed of Soviet agreement was given in a note on March 30th. The western notes stated that the Foreign Ministers' Conference should lead to a summit conference if developments justified it.

Both German states have announced their readiness to attend the conference. The German Democratic Republic, in its reply, urged that Czechoslovakia and Poland, as the first victims of German imperialism, should also be invited to the Foreign Ministers' Conference.

Parley — Two Standpoints

Democratic Germany has positive plans for the Geneva Conference of Foreign Ministers, scheduled to begin on May 11th, but West Germany has only negative plans, the Berlin newspaper "Neues Deutschland" stated on April 3rd in a leading article.

The editorial comment contrasted the two points of view in these words:

"Democratic Germany demands a peace conference and the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany on the basis of the Soviet draft treaty.

"West Germany opposes a peace treaty. Foreign Minister von Brentano, in preliminary talks in Washington, has requested his western colleagues to refrain from drafting their own proposals for a peace treaty.

"Democratic Germany stands for a renunciation of the stationing of home-made or imported nuclear

weapons on German territory, and for the inclusion of Germany in an atom-free zone in Central Europe.

"West Germany wishes at all costs a speeded-up nuclear armament of West Germany. To achieve this aim, all attempts at rapprochement are attacked, and attempts are being made to torpedo the scheduled Summit Conference.

"Democratic Germany stands for the recognition of the present German frontiers, so that the world may have peace and quiet.

"West Germany makes territorial claims against Poland and Czechoslovakia, states it wishes to 'liberate' South Tirol from Italy, and even begins to talk about the 'return' of Alsace-Lorraine and North Schleswig."

THOSE JUDGES

Nazi Jurists Honeycomb West German State

At least 800 of West Germany's judges and public prosecutors occupied key positions in the Nazi courts during Hitler's reign of terror. This has been shown by material recently published by the Committee for German Unity in East Berlin.

The Committee has published a full listing of the judges and prosecutors, who hold jobs ranging from district court judge up to the

position of President of the Supreme Court.

The actual number of Nazi jurists in high positions is probably much greater than 800: this is only the number so far ascertained from old Nazi court files available to the authorities of the German Democratic Republic.

These Nazi judges and prosecutors did not work on routine cases, such as traffic violations or

divorce proceedings: they were all of them employed in Hitler's "Special Courts", or as judges in military courts.

On this page we present you with details of the records of just 6 of these Nazi jurists. When you read these details, remember that these men are back in office today, as one of the main props of Chancellor Adenauer's government.

Judge Martin Claassen (born February 28th 1902)

During the war, Herr Claassen was judge in the Special Court of Zichenau in Occupied Poland. He followed the customary Nazi practice of sentencing Poles to death for petty misdemeanors usually caused by the extreme poverty of the country at the time.

On July 2nd 1942 Claassen sentenced Jan Lewandowski, 27, to death for stealing six items of clothing and three patching rags from an old clothes collection. The indictment stated that:

"Crimes of this kind committed by Poles are particularly odious and should be punished with the most severe sentences. Although the accused had no previous convictions, he has proved to be of a very base disposition and to have a hostile attitude toward the German people. He must therefore be punished by death."

On June 18th 1942, he sentenced Jan Michalski, 37, to death for stealing a fountain pen, a pair of rubber boots and a petrol can.

Several weeks later, he sentenced the bed-ridden Polish widow Wanda Folger to death because five illegally slaughtered pigs had allegedly been sold in her apartment.

The records also mention death sentences meted out to other Poles, among them 16-year-old Wacław Krystowiak.

Today, Claassen is a judge in the district court of Wedding, West Berlin.

Judge Dannegger (born in August 1905)

Dr Dannegger was a judge in a wartime Special Court in Prague. Records

show that he sentenced at least 46 Czechs to death between December 1941 and March 1945. These included Father Karl Kratina of Prague, 63, a retired professor of religion, for "sabotage by continued malicious utterances", and for having told political jokes (December 6th 1944).

Dannegger also condemned Karl and Anna Fejk to death because they had "given food and shelter to, and aided instead of reporting" people persecuted by the Gestapo.

Josef Hocke, who had allowed Major Hlavin, a resistance fighter, to hide in his storeroom, was also condemned to death by Dannegger, on April 12th 1944. On April 21st 1944 he sentenced to death Anna Matyasovsky and Wenzel Tlustý because they were in contact with a group of resistance fighters. On June 28th 1944 he sentenced Franz Svátek to death for "sabotage" because he had shown two Soviet prisoners of war the way to Prague and spent five minutes talking with them. This was "helping enemies of the Reich with advice".

The records show 24 more Czechs were sentenced to death by Dr Dannegger.

Today Dr Dannegger is Senior District Judge of Wiedenbrück in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Judge Hucklenbroich (born in June 1901)

Dr Hucklenbroich, who was Provincial Court Judge in both Special and Upper Provincial Courts in Poznań (Occupied Poland), applied the death penalty in at least 83 known cases.

In sentencing to death the Polish post office worker and first offender Martin Szymczak, 61, for petty

larceny, Dr Hucklenbroich stated: "According to the criminal code for Poland the death penalty is to be applied even if the law does not call for it if the crime shows a particularly low attitude of mind or where it is rendered especially serious for other reasons."

Farm labourers Maria Therese Ginter, 22, and Leonhard Klnal, 25, who attempted to defend themselves against a beating by two Germans after a dispute with the former's employer, were sentenced to six years hard labour and to death, respectively, by Hucklenbroich on July 30th 1942, for "expressing anti-German sentiments and damaging the welfare of the German people" (in Poland).

Another farm labourer, Jan Horyza, 29, was also sentenced to death, on February 25th 1943, because he had resisted a beating by his employer.

Hucklenbroich likewise sentenced the Polish stoker Johann Waymann, 42, to death for having twice slapped a "folk German", and several weeks later, on December 14th 1943, Peter Twardowski because he had "falsely accused another of a crime".

On January 22nd 1941 six Poles received the death sentence from Hucklenbroich, on September 2nd 1941 it was sixteen — a carpenter, several policemen, a chauffeur and two farmers among others. In March 1943 it was six Poles (and three Germans), in April, 4 Poles, others in June, in August and September, and on November 16th 1943, Hucklenbroich applied the death sentence to twelve Poles.

The list continues till April 25th 1944, when the last death sentence of which there is a record was delivered

by Hucklenbroich. One Ukrainian, ten Germans and 72 Poles were sentenced to death by him, according to the available material.

Dr Hucklenbroich, who is on the Polish war criminal list, is a judge in Wuppertal today.

Judge Mohs

(born September 1st 1905)

The record on Dr Mohs is comparatively incomplete. It includes only the names, occupations and day of sentencing of the people he condemned to death as a special judge in Poland during the single year of 1942. The alleged crimes are not included.

On June 6th 1942 in Termessen he sentenced 3 Poles, an appraiser, a welder and another worker; on June 8th in Wroclaw (Breslau) it was 8 Poles, including a tailor, a technician, an assistant mechanic and a book-keeper; the next day in Oels there were seven death sentences — this time a housewife, a shoemaker, a notary public and a civil servant among others; five days later, on June 12th and 13th 1942, in Lodz, he sentenced two women workers, a weaver, a spinner, a road worker and two others; six weeks later, presumably after a summer vacation, on July 31st in Zwickau, Mohs again sentenced seven Poles to death, including this time a high school pupil, an apprentice druggist, an apprentice mechanic and a painter; then, on August 10th and again August 13th to 15th he ordered ten Poles executed — this time the lists include a nurse, a teacher, another high school pupil, a trolley conductor, two shoemakers and a printer; on August 17th seven others followed; October 13th there were eight more and finally, October 16th and 17th 1942, four Poles were sent to the scaffold. The records again tell only the names and that a painter, a barber's assistant, a chemist, a nurse, a farmer and a night watchman were among the sentenced.

In all, in 1942, Mohs sentenced 82 Poles to death, as Provincial Court Judge of the special court of Inowracław, Occupied Poland.

Today Dr Mohs is Provincial Court Judge in Frankenthal (Rhineland-Palatinate).

Judge Muhs

(born in August 1905)

As Provincial Court Judge in the Special Court of Radom, Occupied Poland, Judge Muhs sentenced the bath-house owner Bazyli Antoniak, 50, to death "because he had helped two Jewish children leave the Jewish quarter and had given them shelter".

On April 4th 1944, in a similar case, Muhs condemned the mechanic Wla-

dislaw Tyczyński, 27, to death because he had "provided shelter" for a short time to a 12-year-old boy who had escaped from the ghetto in Glinice which was to be "liquidated".

Muhs is now Senior Provincial Judge in Hamm (North Rhine-Westfalia).

Judge Reimers

(born February 4th 1902)

In the two years, 1944 and 1945, Dr Reimers, judge at the Special Court and People's Court in Berlin, sent 76 German and non-German antifascists to be executed.

Livestock dealer Karl Grabs, 64, was sentenced to death for allegedly telling an acquaintance that "we must not win the war, for that would be much worse for us than if we lost it". Building technician Albert Florkowski, 61, was sent to the scaffold by Dr Reimers on October 30th 1944 for stating in the presence of a member of the armed forces: "The soldiers do not want to fight any longer, we are steering toward another 1918." Dr Reimers said in his summing-up: "Such statements must seriously shake the faith of followers in the Fuehrer and their faith in bringing the war to a victorious end."

In December 1944, Reimers sentenced Hermann and Emma Kurras and Otto Potschka to death because they

had sheltered 13 Jews from the nazis.

In June 29th 1943, he condemned three Berliners, all Jewish, to death for having formed a Communist resistance group. They were Martin Kochmann, 30, Felix Heymann, 25, and Herbert Budzislawski, 22.

Reimers passed death sentences on ten Germans active in an underground Communist group led by Anton Saefkow. "They (the accused) were fully aware that they were attacking our German battle troops treacherously from the rear and trying to rob us of our victory", says the court summation in one of the three cases involved. Judge Reimers condemned the ten, including four mechanics, two toolmakers and an auditor to death on September 18th, October 10th and December 18th 1944.

In all, Reimers passed more than one hundred death sentences.

Today he is Provincial Court Judge in Ravensburg (Baden-Wuerttemberg).

* * *

Fuller details of the careers and crimes of the 800 nazi jurists have been published in a 180-page book issued by the Committee for German Unity in Berlin. Copies of this book in English are now available. We shall be glad to send you a free copy. This free offer does not apply to readers in the German Democratic Republic.

SOMEONE IS LYING!

On March 23rd Mr Arthur Lewis, British Labour M.P., asked a parliamentary question about the nazi judges back in office in West Germany. He asked: "What progress has the Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs to report as a result of the representations he has been making about the appointment to their former positions (in West Germany) of judges, prosecutors and other legal persons connected with Hitler's crimes against humanity."

Mr John Profumo, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, replied: "The Federal German Government have kept the Government informed of the progress of their investigations into these allegations from East Germany. In Hesse and Saarland all allegations have been found baseless. In other Laender, investigatory proceedings have been instigated by the Public Prosecutor's Office against five people of whom two are in retirement. In addition some other inquiries are proceeding."

Congratulations to Mr Arthur Lewis and the other M.P.s. Their concern about the scandal of the nazi judges has at

least led to investigations into five of the cases: perhaps if they keep up their pressure something will finally be done about the 795 other cases which are on the records, but which have not yet been investigated.

But we charge that someone, presumably an official of the West German Government, is lying in the information which he has given to the British Government.

Minister of State Profumo said: "In Hesse and Saarland all allegations have been found baseless." This is a blatant lie! Here is the evidence:

On December 17th 1958 the "Deutsche Woche", a weekly printed in Munich, West Germany, published details of the war crimes of Dr Otto Schweinsberger, senior military judge in the Wehrmacht, who is today Senior Public Prosecutor in Frankfurt Upper Provincial Court. Frankfurt lies in Hesse. The material on Dr Schweinsberger's crimes had been collected by the Berlin correspondent of the newspaper from the Committee for German Unity in East Berlin, the body responsible for collating and publishing the material on the nazi judges.

On December 18th, as a result of this disclosure, Dr Schweinsberger was suspended from office. He was put temporarily under house arrest, but this was later cancelled.

On March 23rd 1959 an official of the Ministry of Justice of the Province of Hesse travelled to Berlin and visited the offices of the Committee for German Unity to inspect the original nazi files on the case of Dr Schweinsberger.

Dr Schweinsberger is still suspended from office, and investigations are proceeding.

But the West German Government informed the British Government "In Hesse all allegations have been found baseless."

If the allegations against Schweinsberger have been found baseless, then his suspension should be cancelled. But if the allegations are well founded, then we urge Minister of State Profumo to request his West German colleagues to tell the truth when he asks them a question.

The case of Dr Schweinsberger is only one of dozens. Here are just a few of the other nazi jurists back in office in Hesse and Saarland:

Hesse:

Chief Public Prosecutor Knobloch, formerly public prosecutor in the nazi special court at Kattowice, occupied Poland.

Chief Public Prosecutor Quillus, formerly public prosecutor at a nazi

special court in occupied Czechoslovakia.

Senate President Stoelzel, former judge in the nazi special court at Kassel.

Saarland:

Senate President Franz Glaser, formerly judge in Litomerice, occupied Czechoslovakia, No. 8/26 on the Czech war criminal list.

Senate President Boemmels, formerly judge in the nazi special court at Poznan, occupied Poland.

Judge Emmerich, formerly judge at a nazi special "high treason" court in occupied Czechoslovakia.

Have the allegations against all these men, and hundreds more like them, all been "found baseless"?

YOUTH PROGRAMME MOOTED

Thousands of young German workers and engineers will soon start work on the oil pipeline from the Soviet Union to the German Democratic Republic, and the large factory complex to process the oil. Other "youth projects" include the extension of the East Berlin passenger airport and the amelioration of three large marsh areas.

These projects form one of the main points in a detailed new programme put up for general membership discussion by the Central Council of the Free German Youth organisation.

According to other programme proposals, young workers should:

1. Play a bigger part in factory meetings discussing production plans and problems — "in this way we can also learn how factories are managed and thus prepare ourselves for our future leadership positions".

2. Improve their job qualifications and, where possible, learn a second trade.

3. Economise on raw materials, money and time with the goal of saving 500,000,000 marks by 1965 and using this money to finance the youth projects and to build ten youth vacation centres and 60 youth hostels in Democratic Germany and five vacation centres on the Black Sea, in the Carpathians and in other foreign holiday areas.

In the countryside young people could:

1. Lead in the national competition for beautifying and modernising the villages by building and improving sport parks, libraries, cinema facilities and attractive living quarters for unmarried farm youth.

2. Give special attention to improved cattle-breeding and to the sugar beet and maize crops.

3. Make full use of correspondence courses and evening classes which should be expanded by the Ministries of Education and Agriculture.

Dancing, swimming and driving lessons will be offered in a greatly increased number of youth clubs and centres, according to the plan. Other features of these centres will be TV sets, dance floors and swimming pools, table tennis, chess and billiard equipment. Cultural, technical, scientific and other interests and hobbies would also be provided for.

Other points were:

1. More schools — enough to enable everyone to get a high school education without going too far from home.

Cultural Exchange With Irak

Fifty students every year will be exchanged between Irak and Democratic Germany and fifty Iraki workers will be trained in German factories, according to an extensive agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation agreed on by the two countries in Bagdad on April 1st.

Groups and delegations of scientists, athletes, youth and students will soon be travelling back and forth between the two countries and professorial chairs for the study of the language and culture of the other country will be founded at the universities.

Both countries will also open cultural centres for exhibitions of art works and industrial products or handicrafts in the other partner's capital city. Cooperation in the fields of press, radio and TV is also planned.

2. More evening courses so those already working can get their diplomas.

3. The winning of thousands of new young teachers from the factories and farms.

4. Yearly competitions and meetings of young writers, musicians, artists and actors — the best amateurs would be given the chance to study in their fields.

Every June there should be a "Youth and Sport Week" where, along with cultural and sport activities, delegates would review what has been already achieved and make precise plans for the coming year. This year the port city of Rostock has been chosen as a start.

One detail of the agreement on student exchange specifies that German teachers and athletics instructors from Irak will have the opportunity of studying in the German Democratic Republic.

Pay Rises for Quarter Million

Postmen, health workers, and workers in the food industries have been granted wage increases averaging about ten percent, the Government of the German Democratic Republic announced on March 29th. A total of 275,000 persons, mostly in low wage categories, will receive the raises.

One month earlier the pay of teachers, miners and chemical workers received a similar boost.

Training to be a Business Woman

By Joan Becker

I only discovered by accident that there is a school for business administrators in Democratic Berlin. A little friend of mine finished middle school last summer and started a three year course in this training school in September. She wants to be an administrator in the wholesale bakery and confectionery business. This sounds rather prosaic, but when Ute told me more about the training course it did not sound so bad after all, especially as there are good prospects of advancement.

This year, with 300 other 16 and 17 year-olds, she is attending a full-time theoretical course which provides the basis for all those who want to be buyers, sellers, bookkeepers or office managers in such branches as the clothing, food and confectionery, transport, building, chemical and electro-technical industries. They have all finished middle school and their school syllabus this year is pretty advanced. They learn elementary political economy, economic history and geography, elements of constitutional law, factory economy, business correspondence, bookkeeping and accounting, elementary technology (chemistry, physics and atomic energy), typing and stenography, German literature and English and Russian, sport and gymnastics.

Next year they will spend three days a week in the administrative departments of the business they want to enter and they will still have three mornings of theoretical work in the same subjects, except for economic history, constitutional law, typing and stenography, which drop out at the end of the first year.

"But who decides where you are to do your practical training?" I asked Ute.

"Oh, that was all arranged beforehand" she said. Her father signed a contract for her with "Aktivist", the biggest nationally owned wholesale bakery and confectionery firm in Democratic Berlin, which now acts as a sort of "uncle" during her three years' training. She will go to the main "Aktivist" offices for her practical training — three days a week during her second year and full time in her third year. She will have two or three months right in a confectionery department towards the end of training, probably icing cakes, sugaring doughnuts etc.

Even this year "Aktivist" has a hand in things. Ute goes there once a month for a little talk about her work and if she gets bad marks in any theoretical subject the firm must be told about it. She gets her pay there too, starting with 85 marks a month in the first half year and rising to 120 marks in the last half year. Out of this she pays her social insurance and trade union fees and, like all other trainees and apprentices, she then gets all the usual privileges — free medical care, convalescent cures if necessary, and cheap holidays in trade union holiday homes. Ute was not well in the autumn, so she was sent for a month to Thuringia for a mud-bath cure for which she paid nothing at all, not even her railway fare.

During her second year's training Ute will have to go through all the departments of the bakery, starting in the postal department and going on through administration, finance —

where she must find out about all financial transactions like in and out-going payments, wages etc. Then she will spend some time in the bakery, in the sales department and at the end of her third year she will probably end up in the bookkeeping and accounting department.

Some time during her second year she will decide where she would like best to work — with a little guidance from the firm — in the buying, bookkeeping, administration or sales department, so that she can already specialise a little in preparation. If she passes her final examination at the end of the third year she can start right in with her work. There is no question of her not being taken on, for "Aktivist" has had a contract with her all through her training and they will themselves be interested to keep her.

Ute's best friend wants to go into the electro-technical branch, so she will do her practical training in the Electro-Apparatus Works in Trep-tow, with whom she has also signed a contract. She will do two or three months' practical work right in the apprentices' workshop some time during her training.

I went to see the director of the training school to find out a little more about the theoretical side of it. He told me that this first general theoretical year is considered very important for those learning to be administrators. Technical apprentices are in charge of trained teachers who watch over their technical and theoretical work, but young people learning administration just go right into the various departments and start helping where they can. They must get guidance from the training school, or there is a danger of their just being used as office girls or errand boys at first, and wasting many valuable months picking up knowledge the hard way.

I asked him if many private firms had apprentices training in his school, and he told me there were now only about 3 per cent of these, because only firms with ten or more employees were entitled to train an administrator or a buyer. There are not many private firms with more than ten employees in East Berlin, and in any case the owners generally do their own buying, selling and managing. Trainees from small

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businesses are also at a disadvantage, because they do not have much scope.

I was interested to hear that a very large number in this school are girls. There are only two or three boys in Ute's group.

I asked the director, too, what standard pupils were expected to reach in English and Russian. He said he thought they should all be able to translate and answer simple business letters. He agreed with me that the text books are not yet very satisfactory, since they do not provide enough of the kind of business English or Russian which is needed.

I suggested that 36 hours of typing spread out over the year would hardly be enough, but the director told me the aim was only to teach the touch system — not to demand any special speed — so that when, for instance, in their second year, trainees got the job of keeping the card-index up to date or typing addresses, they would not have to start with the fatal one-finger system.

It is certainly a good idea for trainees to keep up with German literature too, but the choice of books this year does not seem to me to be the sort of thing to encourage their interest. Their set books are "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and Martin Andersen Nexoe's "Ditte Child of Man" — rather melancholy reading!

It was only this year that the school began to take only middle school graduates. The director told me this was a tremendous improvement, since children of fourteen or fifteen were simply too young for the kind of training needed for responsible jobs. He also has a hundred trainees who came after matriculation; these do only a two year course, one year of theory and one of practice. Some of them will go straight on to university then and take a university diploma in business management.

When Ute has finished her three year's training and received her diploma she will start work at a salary of 300 to 330 marks. But she need not feel that this is the end of her education.

I suggested to the director that all this theory — constitutional law, economic history and geography, political science and so on — was going a bit far, but he said that this was just what gave pupils a good basis for further study. It would be quite possible for them to go on through factory high school — some big factories and other enterprises already have such high schools — or as delegates from their places of work to the workers' and peasants' faculties, and then through university to take

degrees in administration. In fact, the main way of getting into university in future will be after ten years' school and two or three years' apprentice training. All students coming to university in this way get adequate stipends, of course.

Graduates of universities who have practical experience and training behind them can get the most

responsible administrative posts there are — including interesting jobs in the export and import departments for those who have kept up their language study.

Ute is still a giggling schoolgirl just now, but who knows? perhaps in ten years' time she will be a staid business executive earning lots of money.

Huge Pension for Nazi

Hitler's Minister of Justice Franz Schlegelberger now receives his full pension as a retired minister from the West German state. The pension amounts to over £ 2000 a year.

This was disclosed on March 20th when the Social Democratic Party put down a parliamentary question on the subject.

Schlegelberger was sentenced to life imprisonment by a US military court in Nuremberg on December 4th 1947 for active participation in Nazi crimes. He was amnestied after serving four years of the sentence.

One of the items of evidence produced at his trial was the following letter signed by him and addressed to Hans-Heinrich Lammers, Hitler's Chief of Chancellery:

"In accordance with the Fuehrer's order of October 24th 1941 I have handed over to the Gestapo for execution the Jew Markus Luftglass who had been sentenced to 2 1/2 years imprisonment by the Special Court in Kattowitz."

And here is the other side of the picture: at the end of March Heinz Renner, formerly Communist member of the West German Parliament, received a letter from the West German pension authorities demanding the "immediate repayment" of the sum of 27,383 marks paid out to him

between 1949 and 1959 as a victim of nazism. "You are not entitled to this pension since you were a leading functionary of the Communist Party, which aims at eliminating the free-democratic social order" the demand note stated. During the Nazi period Renner spent a long period in concentration camp. He was granted a pension of about 200 marks monthly (one tenth of the pension granted to Nazi Minister of Justice Schlegelberger) in 1949, and the authorities are now demanding the repayment of the entire sum paid out.

Atom Spy Jailed

A West German businessman turned atom spy has been jailed for six years in the German Democratic Republic for attempting to make his brother, an atom scientist, desert to America and divulge secrets of nuclear research.

The sentence was passed on April 3rd by a court in Dresden on Werner Pose who was shown to have been working for British, American and West German intelligence agencies. Target of his spy work was his brother, Professor Heinz Pose, at present working as permanent representative of the German Democratic Republic in the United Nuclear Institute in Dubna, near Moscow.

Free Mag Offer

Students from Asia and Africa now at universities in the German Democratic Republic grace the cover of "GDR Review", pocket magazine published in Dresden.

"GDR Review" is published monthly in English, French, Swedish and Spanish.

A free trial copy of the magazine, and details of how to subscribe, will be sent on application to:

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

With the Berlin problem in the news most of the time, and the Leipzig Fair just passed, clippings from all over the world filled with the wise and not so wise reports and comments of western journalists who have visited the German Democratic Republic recently are now clogging up my desk.

One of the finest bits of non-sequitur I have noted amongst this bunch comes in an article from Leipzig by George Vine in the London "News Chronicle" on March 12th. He describes visiting a certain "Herr Muller" in Leipzig who obviously does not like the government: "Herr Muller's grouse is that you are not allowed to speak your mind" reports Mr Vine.

But then comes the stunning paragraph:

"When he takes you down to the street, he talks in whispers; at least he thinks he does. But his whisper could be heard half a block away, and the things he says about Communism could get him five years on the spot."

Just take these two sentences, roll them on the tongue, and let them sink in. Herr Muller, according to this report, lives in a seven-storied building inhabited by either "party men or trustees"; he complains about Communism in a voice which can be heard half a block away; his sayings could get him five years on the spot; but Herr Muller is still at large. At least one of these four statements must obviously be incorrect. I shall press Mr Vine for an explanation next time I meet him.

Just incidentally, the article also reports that Frau Muller's main complaint is that "she cannot buy a pair of real leather shoes. They are all ersatz". Frau Muller must be suffering from a rare and interesting form of blindness. The shops in Leipzig, and all the other towns and villages of the German Democratic Republic are full of real leather shoes, and their prices were slashed to about half only a few months ago. If she had complained that she found it difficult to get a pair of really stylish shoes, I would have gone along with her: my wife often complains about the same thing, though the situation here has improved enormously in the past year or two: but no real leather shoes? Try again, Mr Vine.

* * *

The second specimen which I should like to submit to your atten-

tion is mainly notable for its use of semantic suggestion: the build-up of atmosphere by the use of phrases often correct in themselves, but which put the reader in a certain desired frame of mind. An example of what I mean is the use of phrases such as "black-booted People's Police". This somehow manages to make the People's Police sound sinister, although even the kindest cops generally wear black boots.

But let us get back to the article by Mrs Toni Howard in the February 28th issue of the American "Saturday Evening Post". The authoress describes in great and dramatic detail driving to West Berlin through the German Democratic Republic:

"The peppermint poles are lifted, we are given a last stern warning not to stray from the autobahn, and at last we are off. Off down an unlighted and unpoliced highway, a 110-mile stretch with no gas stations, no restaurants or inns ... a monotonous path through an unfriendly and lonely country."

Let us leave aside the outright lie about "no gas stations, no restaurants", for anyone who has used the autobahn knows that there are at least two of each on this stretch of road: what I want to put my finger on are the suggestive "unlighted highway" and "lonely country". To the best of my knowledge overland motorways in all countries are unlighted: they certainly are in West Germany, just as in East Germany. And as to "lonely country", this is just a matter of geography: the autobahn from Helmstedt to Berlin happens to pass through one of the emptiest parts of Germany, with Magdeburg as the only city of any size to be passed. It was lonely country fifty years ago under the Kaiser, it was lonely twenty years ago under Hitler, and it is likely to be lonely for quite some time to come. But you will have noted that the use of these two phrases "unlighted highway" and "lonely country" have conjured up quite definite associations in the reader's mind, unless he happens to think about them or know the road.

But let us turn to another of Mrs Howard's jewels: "As we skim along the Avus highway into the heart of West Berlin, the city spreads out before us like a multifoliate and brilliant jewel, radiating energy,

prosperity and courage. One can imagine how it looks to the people out there in the dark behind the barbed wire and the Volkspolizei-guarded barriers — like a richly frosted birthday cake set tantalizingly out of reach of a gang of hungry kids."

Here we have it in all its rich semantic splendour: the "multifoliate jewel radiating courage" on the one hand, and the "hungry kids in the dark behind the barbed wire" on the other.

It all appears to mean something, but it does not really: particularly when you know that the "hungry kids in the dark" can at any time they like walk round to the nearest station of the elevated railway, which runs well beyond the West Berlin borders to suburban towns like Potsdam in the German Democratic Republic, buy a ticket, and ride into Berlin without any further formalities to have a look at the bright neon lights.

And incidentally, I am still wondering what a "multifoliate jewel" is.

* * *

Just while we are on the subject of West Berlin, an odd little confirmation of the importance which some American quarters obviously attach to the role of West Berlin as a centre of subversion against the socialist world has just turned up in a news dispatch from Gettysburg, Pa. (USA).

For years the German Democratic Republic has been calling for a cessation of cold-war propaganda and espionage activities from West Berlin. The radio station RIAS (Radio In American Sector), which is wholly financed and run by the US Government, has been named as one of the chief of these subversive agencies. In reply to this charge, official American circles have always clasped their hands piously and said that RIAS is simply a normal radio station providing a normal programme of entertainment and objective news.

And now for the news dispatch from Gettysburg, printed in the "New York Times" of March 21st: "Diplomats exploring the possibility of negotiation have discussed offering a radical change in the activities of RIAS in exchange for a written Soviet guarantee of the West's right of access to Berlin."

If that is not an admission that the activities of RIAS have not been confined to wholesome soap opera and wholesome YMCA-type newscasts, then I am a multifoliate jewel.